

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 371  
By McDonald

A RESOLUTION memorializing the U.S. Congress to reject any effort to privatize Tennessee lakes now under the control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

WHEREAS, efforts have been made recently in Congress to offer the federally owned dams, locks, reservoirs, and land along the Cumberland River for sale to private investors; and

WHEREAS, Congress has proposed to sell 20 dams and lakes under control of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Tennessee and eight other states; in Tennessee, Dale Hollow, Center Hill, Cordell Hull, Old Hickory, Percy Priest, Cheatham and Barkley lakes are part of the proposal; and

WHEREAS, the proposal also authorizes the sale of the Southeastern Power Administration, which generates power from the lakes and sells it to TVA and local public companies and cooperatives; and

WHEREAS, reservoirs of the dams built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provide Tennessee with one of the most beautiful, accessible and well-developed series of recreational lakes to be found in any of the states; and

WHEREAS, sale of the lakes to private investors would have serious repercussions - from lost tourism and recreation dollars to possible restricted access to the reservoirs; selling the lakes to the highest bidder could lock out the thousands of individuals and families who use these lakes and properties for water sports, hunting, hiking, and camping; and

WHEREAS, in addition, it has been averred that with the sale of the Southeastern Power Administration, "we will see the end of public electric power", as SEPA's generating facilities would turn into profit centers for corporations who would likely raise electric rates; and

WHEREAS, with private ownership, it is also unclear who would take charge of flood control and erosion of the Cumberland River waterway; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has improved navigation, augmented low flows, prevented flooding, generated power and provided recreational opportunities on seven of Tennessee's best lakes; with private ownership, the fate some of Tennessee's most beloved lakes becomes uncertain; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly hereby urges the U.S. Congress to reject any effort to privatize Tennessee lakes or the Southeastern Power Administration, thus preserving the energy efficiency and recreational access that has characterized the operation of these lakes for many years.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.

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